

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 038405 TOSEC 020132
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:MAR

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

L/NEA:DSMALL

S/S:MR GAMBLE

-----190226 105231 /20

O 190111Z FEB 77 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038405 TOSEC 020132

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: AMOCO DRILLING IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: TEL AVIV 1205

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY AMOCO AND EGYPTIAN EMBASSY
HERE THAT RIG 511 IS PREPARING TO START DRILLING, OR MAY
ACTUALLY HAVE STARTED. THE IMMEDIATE PRESSURE IS THERE-
FORE SOMEWHAT REDUCED IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION. IT IS
UNCLEAR FROM EVRON'S COMMENTS IN REFTEL WHETHER ISRAEL
INTENDS TO FORCE CESSATION OF DRILLING IF ITS CONDITIONS
ARE NOT MET, BUT IN PRACTICAL TERMS THE ISRAELIS ARE IN A
LESS STRONG SITUATION ON THE GROUND THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN
SOME PREVIOUS INSTANCES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 038405 TOSEC 020132

2. SUBJECT TO ANY COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S PARTY
AND EMBASSY CAIRO, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO
EVRON IN RESPONSE TO HIS STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 16 (HOLD
OFF UNTIL FEBRUARY 21 TO ALLOW FOR COMMENTS):

-- IT HAS BEEN OUR PRACTICE DURING THE RECENT PAST TO
INFORM ISRAEL IN ADVANCE OF ANY AMOCO OPERATIONS THAT WERE

TO EXTEND INTO THE WATERS OVER WHICH ISRAEL CLAIMS JURISDICTION. THE MOST RECENT SUCH NOTIFICATION WAS

NOVEMBER 29, WITH REGARD TO SEISMIC OPERATIONS.

-- WE ARE PREPARED TO REQUEST AMOCO TO CONTINUE TO INFORM US IN SUCH CASES, AND FOR OUR PART TO CONTINUE PASSING THIS INFORMATION TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT.

-- THIS WAS NOT DONE IN THE PRESENT CASE BECAUSE ACCORDING TO AMOCO'S CALCULATION OF THE RIG'S LOCATION, AS PLOTTED ON OUR CHARTS THAT ARE BASED ON ISRAEL'S RECKONING OF THE MEDIAN LINE, RIG 511 IS SUFFICIENTLY FAR TO THE WEST THAT ITS ANCHORS WERE NOT THOUGHT TO EXTEND INTO WATERS OVER WHICH ISRAEL CLAIMS JURISDICTION.

-- AMOCO HAS TOLD US IT INTENDS TO WITHDRAW THE EQUIPMENT FROM THE SITE WHEN THE DRILLING IS COMPLETED.

3. FYI: AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE MADE AN EFFORT TO WORK OUT A FORMULA WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT THAT WOULD PERMIT WORK TO GO FORWARD INITIALLY ON SITE 304.1 AND WOULD PROVIDE SOME BASIS FOR OTHER FUTURE OPERATIONS. GIVEN THE EGYPTIAN REACTION TO DATE, IT MAY BE THAT WE CANNOT PRODUCE A FORMULA ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES ALONG THE LINES OF THIS PARTICULAR APPROACH. WE MAY WANT TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE WHOLE SITUATION, THEREFORE, AND CONSIDER WHETHER THERE IS A MORE PROMISING APPROACH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 038405 TOSEC 020132

4. IF THE ISRAELIS INSIST UPON AN EXPLICIT REQUEST FOR THEIR APPROVAL, OR IF THEY REFER TO FORMULA WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THEM, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT OUR WHOLE EFFORT HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO AVOID STEPS OR MEASURES THAT WOULD REQUIRE MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE LEGAL VIEW OF EITHER SIDE, WITH THE AIM OF FINDING A PRAGMATIC BASIS FOR GETTING AHEAD WITH AT LEAST THOSE OPERATIONS THAT WERE NOT INHERENTLY A PROBLEM FOR EITHER SIDE. WE HAVE SO FAR NOT SUCCEEDED IN WORKING OUT A GENERALLY APPLICABLE FORMULA, AND MEANWHILE WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD REFRAIN FROM HARASSING SUCH OPERATIONS IF THEY WERE INFORMED ABOUT THEM IN DUE TIME.
HARTMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, PROGRESS REPORTS, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE038405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARDAY:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770059-0530
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770224/aaaaavhe.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 385bf2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 1205
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3274175
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMOCO DRILLING IN GULF OF SUEZ
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EG, US, IS, AMOCO
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/385bf2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009